

## Great Britain and Supplies for Belgian Industries.

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THE Foreign Office have issued the following for publication :—

*Foreign Office, London,*  
*February 19, 1916.*

My dear Minister,

During the last months you have represented to me frequently the condition of industries in the part of Belgium occupied by the enemy, and the need for imports of raw material if those industries are to be saved from ruin and universal unemployment and distress prevented. I now enclose a memorandum which shows the true state of the case.

I should add that the question here dealt with is entirely distinct from the importation of foodstuffs into Belgium by the Relief Commission, as to which the attitude of His Majesty's Government remains that stated recently in Parliament, that His Majesty's Government will facilitate the work of the Commission as long and in so far as that work is carried on under adequate neutral supervision, completely independent of German control and in compliance with the conditions laid down from time to time by His Majesty's Government.

(Signed) E. GREY.

Monsieur P. Hymans, &c., &c.

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### MEMORANDUM.

It is understood that there is a strong feeling among Belgians that the industrial distress in Belgium is to be attributed solely to the action of the Allied Governments in preventing imports, and it is often contended that this action does not appreciably harm Germany, while it involves the most painful loss to the people of our Ally.

As is already known, His Majesty's Government have not been able to agree that Belgian industry can be maintained in present circumstances without very considerable benefit to the enemy, involving a postponement of the restoration of Belgian independence. But, at the same time, His Majesty's Government have been fully impressed with the necessity of assisting the Belgian population, and it is for this reason that they have supported the Commission for Relief in Belgium and have permitted export trade from Belgium under certain conditions. It was also for this reason that they decided some months ago to signify their willingness to consider proposals for the importation of raw materials into Belgium through the agency and under the guarantee of the Relief Commission. The undertakings demanded from the Germans in connection with this

